

REnvP

Registered Environmental Practitioner

Practice Direction

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The Assessment by Licensed Members of applicants for registration as a Registered Environmental Practitioner (REnvP)

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The Registered Environmental Practitioner Practice Direction is one of a series of Practice Directions approved by the Board of the Society detailing operational requirement of the Society's registrations.

Edition Control

Edition	Revision date	Notes
1	Sept 2020	Initial version of REnvP PD
2	Jan 2023	Updated following comprehensive standards review

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Definitions

In this Practice Direction, the terms below have the meanings listed against them, and are shown in bold type throughout the document.

Appeal Panel	Three members of the Registration Authority appointed to consider appeals against a Licensed Member's conduct of an assessment process (see paragraph 6.3).
Assessment Sheet	The official record of the outcome of an assessment drawn up by the Professional Review Panel (see paragraph 3.3.2).
Bespoke Route	A variation of the Professional Review Route approved by the Registration Authority
Board	The Governing Body of the Society for the Environment, howsoever known.

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Code of Professional Conduct	The Code of Professional Conduct of the Society for the Environment set out in Section 7 of this Practice Direction.
Competences	The level of competences that an applicant must demonstrate set by Society for the Environment and as set out in the Appendix.
Eligibility Criteria	The criteria specified in Section 2 of this Practice Direction.
Final Appeal	An Appeal against a determination of the Registration Authority dismissing an appeal against a Licensed Member's conduct of an assessment.
Final Appeal Panel	Three members of the Board appointed to hear a Final Appeal.
Investigation Committee	A committee comprising the Society for the Environment Chair and the Chief Executive appointed to consider a Final Appeal and make recommendations to the Board.
Licensed Member (LM)	A professional institution or association that has been licensed by the Registration Authority to register its members as Chartered Environmentalists, Registered Environmental Practitioners, and Registered Environmental Technicians.
Professional Review	The process of assessing an applicant for registration.
Professional Review Panel (PR Panel)	A panel comprising at least two suitably trained Society for the Environment registrants at the same or higher level of registration as that sought by the candidate. A Licensed Member may invite a suitably trained Society for the Environment registrant from another Licensed Member to be a member of the Professional Review Panel.
Professional Review Interview (PRI)	The interview that may form part of the process of assessing applicants for registration.

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Registration Authority (RA)	The part of the Society for the Environment that exercises the powers of registration allotted to it by the Society's Bye Laws via the Board, the governing body of the Society for the Environment.
Reinstatement Window	The period of three years following a person leaving the register when they can be reinstated without further assessment or interview.
Relevant Work-based Practice	Experience that can be considered in assessing an applicant for registration as a Registered Environmental Practitioner, described in more detail in Section 2.2
Route	The route to registration provided for under this Practice Direction, namely the Professional Review Route.
Society for the Environment (SocEnv)	The body established by Royal Charter in 2004 to promote the advancement of, the dissemination of, knowledge of and education in good environmental practice for the public benefit, and which licences bodies to assess and register Chartered Environmentalists (CEnv), Registered Environmental Practitioners (REnvP) and Registered Environmental Technicians (REnvTech).

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1. Introduction

1.1 A Registered Environmental Practitioner (REnvP) is a professional who has been registered as such by a LM after demonstrating that they apply a level of environmental knowledge, understanding and skills to protect and enhance the environment in a sustainable way. Registration as a REnvP recognises the level of professional practice among people operating within the different environmental disciplines and knowledge bases found within the domains of the LM.

This document specifies:

- (a) The eligibility criteria to be met by applicants for registration as a REnvP
- (b) The competences that must be demonstrated by applicants for registration as a REnvP see Appendix for detail of REnvP competences.
- (c) The available routes to registration as a REnvP
- (d) The conduct required of a REnvP
- 1.2 Successful applicants for registration shall be entitled to use the title Registered Environmental Practitioner and the designatory letters REnvP after their name.

2. Eligibility Criteria for Registered Environmental Practitioner

To be eligible for registration an applicant must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- (a) be a professionally qualified individual member, or equivalent, of a LM bringing the applicant within that body's Code of Conduct and disciplinary procedures;
- (b) have acquired a level of knowledge equivalent to a QCF level 5 qualification (England, Wales and Northern Ireland). The equivalent level of knowledge will be determined by the LM;

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- (c) possess sufficient relevant, practical experience to be able to demonstrate the REnvP competences. The sufficiency of experience will be determined by the LM;
- (d) be willing to comply with the Society's Code of Professional Conduct; and
- (e) be willing to comply with the requirements of their LM and SocEnv relating to Continuing Professional Development. Please refer to competence Group D in Appendix.

2.1 Academic Qualifications

Relevant academic qualifications and their equivalence shall be determined by the LM. Relevance will be guided by the environmental and sustainable development content of the applicant's courses, and its alignment to the REnvP competences in Groups A and B in the Appendix.

2.2 Practical Experience

- 2.2.1 Each applicant for registration shall possess sufficient relevant, practical experience to be able to demonstrate the REnvP Competences. This need not be continuous.
- 2.2.2 To be considered as relevant, Work-based Practice must have a direct and distinct environmental focus and/or context. Please refer to REnvP competence Group C in the Appendix.
- 2.2.3 The Relevant Work-based Practice may comprise paid employment, voluntary activity, academic work placements or applied research, but may not include pure academic study only.
- 2.2.4 Experience that develops general professional competences, for example, general communication and presentation skills, research skills and project management skills may be included at the discretion of the LM, and in proportion to the REnvP Competences. see Group C in the Appendix.
- 2.2.5 The nature of Relevant Work-based Practice will reflect the domain of each individual LM, but it is a requirement that it should be environmental in nature

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and clearly reflect the REnvP Competences. The LM may consult the RA for further determination of relevance.

3. Route to Registration. The Professional Review Route

3.1 The Application Process

This will normally involve two elements: an application form and a submission of evidence, with the weighting depending on the LM. To support accessibility, reasonable adjustments are allowed and LMs are encouraged to consider them.

- 3.1.1 An applicant for registration shall complete an application form prescribed by the LM demonstrating that the candidate satisfies the eligibility criteria for registration as a REnvP. The application form shall also include a commitment to Continuing Professional Development and to the Code of Professional Conduct, and a signed agreement that personal information provided in connection with the application may be stored on computer in compliance with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and used for contact purposes by SocEnv (see Section 4.3 below).
- 3.1.2 The applicant shall submit suitable and sufficient evidence, in a form determined by the LM, to demonstrate achievement of each and all of the REnvP competences to the satisfaction of the LM. Ordinarily, this will include examples of the applicant's professional work, and will be cross-referenced to a *Curriculum Vitae*, and exemplify the relevance of the applicant's qualifications and/or experience.
- 3.1.3 All submitted evidence must be validated by at least two mentors, sponsors or supervisors, who shall confirm in writing the authenticity of the application and that it fairly represents the applicant's ability, achievements and character. Ideally, the mentors, sponsors, or supervisors should be registered at the level being assessed. Their relationship to the applicant and the number of years known must be specified. The LM must satisfy itself that the application has been validated and that the applicant is deemed suitable for registration.
- 3.1.4 A Professional Review Interview is not a formal requirement for REnvP. However, a LM may choose to require or offer one. This may be for one or more

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of the following reasons:

- A reasonable adjustment
- It is an inseparable membership requirement for a LM
- Where the LM believes the candidate would benefit from an interview
- Where the LM believes it would be appropriate.

3.2 The Professional Review Interview

- 3.2.1 Where a LM has determined that a Professional Review Interview is required under Section 3.1.4 the PR Panel shall conduct an interview.
- 3.2.2 A Professional Review Interview may be conducted using video-conferencing or other facilities that enable the participants to see and hear each other, providing the LM has robust protocols in place for this process. Telephone interviews or interviews using any medium by which the participants cannot see each other are not allowed. In all cases, whether the interview is conducted remotely or not, LM shall take appropriate steps to satisfy themselves of the identity of the applicant participating in the interview.
- 3.2.3 The Professional Review Interview may be held anywhere in the world. Subject to the exception provided in paragraph 3.2.2 above it shall be conducted face-to-face and last for as long as required to satisfy the PR Panel. The format of the interview shall be determined by the LM to give the applicant the best opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, competence, and engagement.

3.3 Assessment

- 3.3.1 The PR Panel shall assess the applicant against each and all of the REnvP competences using the evidence obtained from the submission and the Professional Review Interview as appropriate. The PR Panel may recommend that the applicant should be registered as a REnvP only if it is satisfied that they have demonstrated all the competences to a satisfactory level.
- 3.3.2 The assessment by the PR Panel shall be recorded on an Assessment Sheet that clearly records evidence of each of the competences. The Assessment Sheets shall be held by the LM for a minimum of six years from the date of the Professional Review.

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3.4 Bespoke Routes

- 3.4.1 A Bespoke Route is an alternative process used to demonstrate the REnvP competency standard. A LM can apply to the RA for approval of a Bespoke Route request, using the application form in the Appendix. The application shall be presented to the RA, trialled using a small pilot group, and monitored on an ongoing basis through licence reviews. The application process is illustrated in the Process Map, which is also in the Appendix.
- 3.4.2 Whilst a Bespoke Route will differ in some way from the Professional Review Route, the LM must be able to show that applicants following this route will/do satisfy all the eligibility criteria and meet all the REnvP competences.
- 3.4.3 All aspects of the appeals processes detailed in Section 5 Appeals shall apply to all Bespoke Routes without exception.

4. Post-Assessment

- 4.1 On completion of an assessment, after the recommendation of the PR Panel has been ratified, the LM shall advise the applicant in writing of the outcome, normally within three months.
- 4.2 The LM shall advise unsuccessful applicants of their right to appeal.
- 4.3 The LM shall forward to SocEnv the names and contact details of each successful applicant. SocEnv shall send an invoice to the LM in respect of the application fee and annual registration fee for the year or part of year. On payment of the invoice, SocEnv shall provide its standard form certificate of registration directly to the new registrant unless otherwise requested by the LM.
- 4.4 If a REnvP is suspended from registration by a LM for failure to pay registration fees or any other reason, the LM shall notify SocEnv of the date of suspension. SocEnv shall forthwith cause an individual's name to be added to a list of suspended registrants maintained for the purpose.

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4.5 A former registrant who has been deferred and who becomes eligible for reinstatement within the period of three years following the date of notification of suspension by the LM (the "Reinstatement Window") may be reinstated without further assessment or interview. Reinstatement after the Reinstatement Window should be made only after a Professional Review has been conducted with the former registrant to establish to the satisfaction of the LM that the competences are still met.

5. Appeals

- 5.1 A LM shall provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants based on information recorded by the PR Panel and shall inform them that there is a right of appeal. The LM shall consider and determine any appeal received in accordance with its own procedures.
- 5.2 An appellant whose appeal to the LM is dismissed and who is dissatisfied with the conduct of the process may make a further appeal to the RA.
- 5.3 On receipt of an appeal the RA shall request written submissions from both the appellant and the LM. It shall consider the written submissions and may dismiss the appeal without further consideration. If it does not dismiss the appeal it shall appoint an Appeal Panel of three of its members which shall hear the appellant and the LM Member and shall determine the appeal.

A determination shall be in writing and shall take the form of either a dismissal of the appeal with reasons or a direction to the LM to re-assess the appellant considering the findings of the Appeal Panel recorded in the determination.

- 5.4 An appellant whose appeal has been dismissed by the Appeal Panel may, if dissatisfied with the conduct of the process, make a Final Appeal to the Board of SocEnv. On receipt of a Final Appeal the Chief Executive and the Chair of the Board shall be constituted as an Investigation Committee and shall request written submissions from the appellant, the LM and the RA, and shall consider them.
- 5.5 The Investigation Committee shall make a written recommendation to the Board, with reasons. It is open to the Investigation Committee to recommend

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that the Board should dismiss the Final Appeal without further process, and the Board may dismiss the Final Appeal based on such a recommendation.

5.6 If the Investigation Committee recommends that the Final Appeal should be heard, or if the Board elects not to dismiss the Final Appeal without further process, the Board shall appoint a panel of three of its members who have not previously been involved at any level of the appeal, as a Final Appeal Panel which shall independently review the case and may hear the parties. The Final Appeal Panel shall make its recommendations in writing to the Board with reasons. The Board shall then determine the appeal. Its decision shall be final and shall be communicated to the parties in writing. The determination shall take the form of either a dismissal of the appeal with reasons or of a direction to the LM to reassess the appellant considering the findings of the Board recorded in the determination. Members of the Board who have been involved at any stage of the appeal process or who have any material connection with the LM shall not be entitled to vote on the appeal.

6. Code of Professional Conduct

Every successful applicant for registration as a REnvP shall be required to sign the Code of Professional Conduct of SocEnv as follows:

As a Registered Environmental Practitioner I will:

- act in accordance with the best principles for the mitigation of environmental harm and the enhancement of environmental quality;
- strive to ensure that the uses of natural resources are fair and sustainable taking account of the needs of a diverse society;
- use my skills and experience to serve the needs of the environment and society;
- serve as an example to others for responsible environmental behaviour;
- not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation or discrimination; and
- commit to maintaining my personal professional competence and strive to uphold the integrity and competence of my profession.

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Appendix

REnvP Competences

Applicants must demonstrate how they meet each of the following 11 competencies.

A Application of knowledge and understanding of the environment to further the aims of sustainability:

- A1 Understand the sustainability principles applicable to the management of the environment
 - (1) Analyse environmental information, concepts, and theories.
 - (2) Be aware of the environmental impact of the area of study or work.
 - (3) Understand the importance of maintaining and enhancing natural cycles and biodiversity.
- A2 Apply environmental knowledge and principles in pursuit of sustainable environmental management
 - (1) Use a range of skills and concepts to address situations that involve many interacting environmental factors.
 - (2) Apply and, where necessary, contribute to the design of relevant methodologies for sustainable environmental management.
 - (3) Understand and implement contracts and arrangements with relevant stakeholders.
- A3 Identify, analyse, and anticipate the impact of problems and environmental trends to develop practical sustainable solutions
 - (1) Identify and assess the impact of problems.
 - (2) Address problems and find solutions with minimal supervision.

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- (3) Demonstrate an awareness of current environmental matters and trends reflecting relevant heritage where appropriate.
- (4) Identify and apply new environmental information, knowledge, skills and competence to develop practical sustainable solutions.

B. Leading Sustainable Management of the Environment

- B1 Promote behavioural and cultural change by influencing others to secure environmental improvements that go beyond statutory requirements
 - (1) Implement and review good practices that go beyond statutory requirements.
 - (2) Advise and support others to understand the wider environmental context.
 - (3) Support sustainable management of the environment by raising issues, potential risks, benefits, and opportunities, and encourage others to contribute to environmental protection and improvement.
- B2 Develop and maintain a strategic environmental approach
 - (1) Identify and plan potential strategies for sustainable development and environmental improvement.
 - (2) Promote inclusion and diversity and collaborate with others to address environmental challenges.
 - (3) Identify constraints and opportunities for the development and transfer of environmentally appropriate techniques, skills, methods, processes, and behaviours.
 - (4) Implement measures to assess and manage risks to the environment encompassing health and safety, technologies, business, and reputation.
- B3 Demonstrate leadership and management skills

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- (1) Exercise judgement in undertaking and allocating tasks to address environmental and sustainability issues.
- (2) Motivate and influence others to deliver environmental and sustainability objectives.
- (3) Manage the identification of a task and plan for its development and implementation.
- (4) Implement continuous environmental improvement.

C. Effective Communication and Interpersonal Skills

- C1 Communicate the environmental case, confidently, clearly, autonomously and competently.
 - (1) Deliver presentations.
 - (2) Contribute to and help promote debates, meetings, and discussions.
 - (3) Identify, engage with, and respond to a range of stakeholders.
- C2 Ability to liaise with, negotiate with, handle conflict and advise others, in individual and/or group environments (either as a leader or member)
 - (1) Seek the opinions and contributions of others.
 - (2) Understand the motives and attitudes of others and be aware of different roles.
 - (3) Manage decision-making and support group decisions.
 - (4) Manage conflict to achieve common goals within groups, and tasks.

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D. Personal commitment to professional standards, recognising obligations to society, the profession and the environment

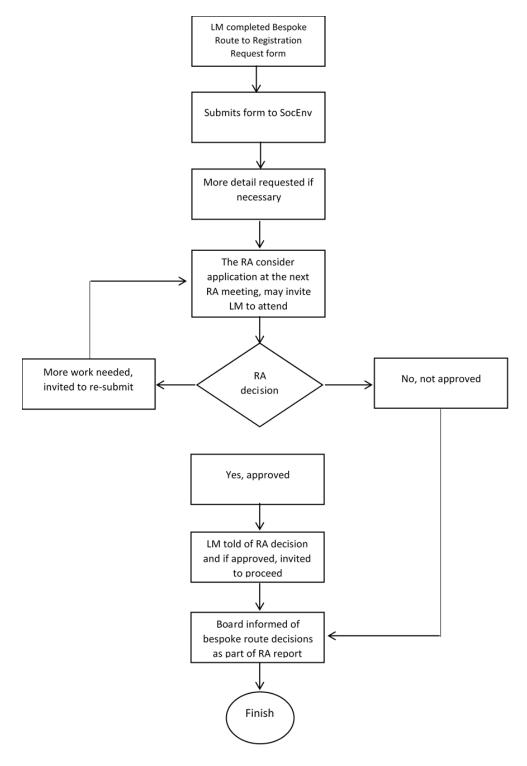
- D1 Plan, undertake and evaluate CPD activities to maintain and enhance competence in area of practice
 - (1) Plan, undertake, reflect on, and evaluate CPD activities.
- D2 Assess and resolve environmental ethical issues
 - (1) Identify, work to and support others to resolve environmental ethical issues.
 - (2) Improve environmental practice by addressing ethical issues.
- D3 Understand demonstrate and advocate compliance with relevant codes of conduct and practice
 - (1) Understand, comply, and promote compliance with relevant codes of conduct and practice.

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The Bespoke Route Process Map



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The Bespoke Route Application Form

	Bespoke Route to Registration Request
LM Name:	
LM Contact:	
Date of Reque	st:
	ull answers to the questions below:
How would the	e bespoke process be different to what is set out in the Practice Direction?
Why is normal	process not applicable?
How would the	e bespoke route remove the barrier to registration?
How would sta	andards be maintained?
How would yo	u run a pilot?
How many pot	ential registrants do you have?
Please email con	npleted requests to: geoff.atkins@socenv.org.uk
For office use	
Date to RA:	

Date to RA.			
Decision:	Yes, approved	No, not approved	More work needed
Feedback:			
Date to LM			
Date to Board	d		

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REnvP Licensed Members

To locate details of current professional bodies licensed to offer the REnvP registration to their members, please visit <u>www.socenv.org.uk/our-licensed-members</u>. The registrations that each Licensed Member offers can be seen above their respective organisation names.

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End of Registered Environmental Practitioner Practice Direction.

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